



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIR



Aloha ka kou!

Always on the lookout for innovative solutions, the members of the Honolulu City Council worked together to help build better communities, fortify our neighborhoods, strengthen and enhance city services, and improve the overall quality of life for residents of Oahu.

Presented on the following pages of this annual report are highlights of the legislative actions and accomplishments of the City Council during the past fiscal year. Accomplishments such as:

- Protecting the public health and environment, primarily through the provision of necessary infrastructure;
- Protecting the public safety, primarily through the provision of police, fire safety, and emergency response services;
- Promoting alternative transportation systems, particularly mass transit, and improving traffic safety;
- Promoting affordable housing;
- Enhancing and maintaining recreational facilities and natural resources;
- Revising land use policies and regulations and granting appropriate and justified development approvals;
- Strengthening and diversifying the economy;
- Addressing the problems of persons with special needs;
- Funding city operations and projects and ensuring the efficient and effective delivery of City services.

In 2005, your City Council also undertook unprecedented measures to increase transparency in government, beginning with the decision to post members spending reports online. Under this system each Councilmember is given a set budget to run his or her office and is held accountable for every penny spent. It is a fair and transparent system that may become a model for other counties.

The Council continued to work to increase public involvement and participation in the legislative process by making the City and County of Honolulu's Integrated Document Management System (Docushare) available for public access. This system provides the general public with access to all City Council bills, resolutions, ordinances, communications and Council/Committee agendas through the City's Web site at www4.honolulu.gov/docushare.

In addition, the Council made it more convenient for island residents to be informed of City Council meetings, public hearings and legislation. The City Clerk's Office now takes requests for Internet subscriptions for City Council meeting agendas, public hearing notices and ordinances to be e-mailed to the requestor as a public service.

As always, we invite you to contact your councilmember for any of your needs or concerns. The City continues to search for new ideas and novel approaches to solving routine problems. On behalf of your City Council, we thank you for your continued support and look forward to accomplishing much together in 2006.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donovan M. Dela Cruz".

Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Council Chair
District II